To Jim Garrison from Harold Weisberg 3/17/68

The Fair Play Handbills on Pine Street

Not until late at night the day before I made the investigation did I make mention of my intention to study the scene of the finding of the handbills near Reisman's home. Then I mentioned it over the phone to the two estimable conservative ladies who the next morning took me there. I made no other mentions anywhere to anyone. My departure was a half-hour behind the time I mentioned on the phone.

Bisso

Mrs. Lillian Bisso and her friend, Miss Jahnke, drove me first to the present location of Kent Courtney's operation. We stopped momentarily in the street for me to snap a picture. As we did, with none of us leaving the car, the cloth curtain over the large store-front window parted slightly. One of the ladies identified Courtney. Simultaneously a slim young woman came out, with a note book, to take the license number of the car. I told her I was looking for Mr. Courtney. She said he wasn't in. Then a man and an older woman emerged. The man is Ellery Ferrara, Latin-looking, without trace of an accent. I told him the same things and added that for several days I had phoned both the office and home numbers without response. He asked how I got the home number and I said from the phone book. He said that accounted for it, for the number now was unlisted. He said Courtney was away but would return soon, I took it within a day or so. I told him I'd then have left.

Their timing could not have been better. It is reminiscent of the morning of May 2, 1967, when I made a hurried inspection of several addresses, with Fenner Sedgebeer driving, not knowing when I began where I'd have time to go and not knowing when I made one stop which the next would be, the clock determining these things. When I got opposite the Habana Bar Carlso Bringuier came running from his store snapping pictures with an automatic 35mm camera. He then tried to start a fight. He had to know that I was coming and the moment of it, which could have been given him only by a "tail". Without so intending, Ricardo Davis disclosed this close surveillance to me. Of course, I am unaware of it because I never look back and am unconcerned by the surveillance. How close it is, however, is revealled by the receipt yesterday by Orest Pena of a properly addressed but anonymous mailing from Washington warning him against me, reported in a Bringuier memo of today's date. Is Orest so well known in Washington?

From Courtney's plant we drove to Zimple and Pine Streets. On the right side of Zimple, close to the corner is the residence the ladies identified to me as that of Courtney. Turning left into Pine, the Reisman residence is on the right-hand side, not 75 yards from the intersection (the left-side corner property is that of one Rudolfo Batista, unknown to me). We then went around the block into the block of Pine Street flanking the side of the Courtney property. I took pictures from there (a building apparently has been torn down, making it possible to photograph the shed the ladies say housed the press in 1963) showing the side of the property. I took pictures from the corner showing the street signs and the properties, etc. I turned the undeveloped roll of film over to Clancy.

If you recall my writing, it was apparent from any analysis of the Commission material that the Reisman story was undependable. I believed the leaflets were planted, and that Oswald deliberately involved Reisman was what you call a "lightening rod" by the "meaningful" expressions Lt. Martello took the intended way.

Also, please recall what Mrs. Brian Carey told me, that she and Thornley worked for Courtney at the same time.

It is apparent that someone leaving the Courtney shed or residence could have deposited these leaflets along Pine Street while holding his breath, the distance is that short.

Ferrara's wife is Shirley R. I gave Louis Iven copies of the ladies' identification of her employment (and several other things).

The Reisman address, if memory is accurate, is 1121 Pine. The empty lot is 1018. Batista's is 1104. Courtney's are in the material I gave Louis.

Now these ladies were in the court room the late night of the Andrews decision. Ferrara and possibly his wife also were there. ~~The ladies also were there.~~ They tell me Ferrara told them he is a friend of Andrews.

The ladies also told me that in 1963 Courtney's father lived on Napoleon Ave. near Touro, but I do not now recall the significance they attribute to this.

Mary Bringel was assistant editor for Courtney in 1963.

My recollection is foggy, but there seems to be something in Oswald's employment record or applications that may be pertinent. In this connection, I have discussed with Barbara Reid and Sciambra the preparation of an Oswald New Orleans chronology. Barbara is willing to undertake the task. However, I think through Matt Herren and/or Jack Frazier it might be possible to get students to do this, keeping her time free for other things that she, not others, can do. It is Moomoo's recollection that some such exhibit may have been commaneed.

Spok. to Matt 3/18

The ladies' investigation discloses that Courtney has an association with Ronnie Caire in the preparation of part of the 250th commemoration. They have a sample of this printing if you want it. Louis has their addresses.

These ladies are also prepared to provide a few other services for you, such as the transcribing of tapes that are not classified. Specifically, I asked if they'd undertake the difficult task of transcribing my Pena interview, and they agreed. They will type it in rough, asking him to fill in the blanks, and will then retype it for you. They will be prepared with the proper recorder, etc., by the time you may ask it. All the arrangements are made. They do not even need tennis shoes. Also, both are well connected with maritime and dredging sources and have and can get information on divers, etc., should you need it. They are each from such families.

(516)/ Mrs. Bisso told me that she had a good connection with Mrs. Cerman Shea, who worked closely with Coutrney. Mrs. Shea has dried up and will not now talk to Mrs. Bisso. Her address is given to me by Mrs. Bisso as 1535 Burdette St., 861-1207.

The notes I gave Louis seem to identify the Mrs. Carey of whom I earlier told you as Mrs. Flo Carey. I will continue my efforts to get her new address for you.